

IS FALLING BEHIND.

England Makes Few Additions to Navy During 1900.

Not a Single Battleship Launched—France Also Shows Little Progress—Germany and Russia Fleeing to the Front.

England, although the first naval power in the world, has not much to boast about in the matter of naval progress in 1900, says the London correspondent of the New York Tribune. Not a single battleship was launched during the 12 months—two first-class armored cruisers, one third-class cruiser, four sloops and 80 destroyers completing the list—and no real beginning has yet been made with this year's programme except in the case of two new second class cruisers, as the contracts for six new armored cruisers have only just been given out, and the first keel plates of two new battleships will not be laid till the end of March. It is some consolation to Englishmen to know that France's naval progress at the same time has been greatly retarded, owing to delay in delivering materials. Russia made great strides last year, and in naval progress competition among the powers she easily heads the list; Germany coming next and Japan third, while England only secured fourth place. Russia completed and commissioned two first class battleships, one first class armored cruiser and 80 destroyers. Moreover, she launched three first class battleships, one first class armored cruiser, one second class cruiser, two third class cruisers and three destroyers. The rapidity of Russian shipbuilding was one of the features of the year. The armored cruiser Gromobos, a formidable vessel of 12,000 tons, which was only laid down at the Baltic works, St. Petersburg, in May, 1898, is now en route to China.

EDUCATION OF INDIANS.

Compulsory Training of Children of Red Men Considered Necessary for Their Welfare.

Compulsory education of the Indians is advocated by the superintendent of Indian schools, who shows that only half of the 40,000 Indian children attend school. "Civilization only comes to a people by the slow process of education," says the report of the superintendent of Indian schools, "and unless we educate and civilize the majority of the children the down pull of the ignorant will be greater than the uplift of the educated."

"The government is endeavoring to prepare the Indian for independence and citizenship, and to confer this boon upon a people without first requiring their education is the greatest un wisdom. It is necessary for the protection of the state and the nation that the youth of the country be educated, for upon the virtue and intelligence of the people depends the stability of the government. With education will come morality, cleanliness, self-respect, industry, and, above all, a Christianized humanity, the foundation of the world's progress and well being."

"If we would be successful in our work, the Indian child must be placed in school before the habits of barbarous life have become fixed, and there he must be kept until contact with our life has taught him to abandon his savage ways and walk in the path of Christian civilization. Instead of roaming with parents, riding wild ponies, sitting by railroad stations, learning the white man's vices, the children, if in school, would have the example of right living in present and past history set before them daily, and be taught to look upward for their ideals, to have a right respect and obedience for constitutional authority."

KEPT ON SIDING FOR WEEKS.

Dispatcher's Forgetfulness Holds a Freight Engine Twenty-One Days.

"Side-track at Hampton Junction and a great order" was the message Hiram Adams, an engineer on the Jersey Central, a branch of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railway, received on December 15. There had been a small freight wreck on the line and it was thought best to switch his train in temporarily. After the first three hours went by Adams got hungry and went to a hotel. The day passed and no further orders came. After sending the order the train dispatcher forgot Adams. Finally an investigation was made and the startling discovery came that Adams had been forgotten for three weeks. He has filed a bill for his hotel expenses and time and a half after the first ten hours on the siding. He says he did not report for the reason that once before he had asked for further orders and received a sharp reprimand.

A Grave in the South.

In the end of a deep railroad cut in Georgia, near the town of Altoona, on the line of Sherman's march to the sea, is a soldier's grave. The simple headstone bears this inscription: "He died for the cause he thought was best." For more than 25 years the Western & Atlantic Railroad company, leasing the "state road" from Georgia, has kept this nameless grave in repair. No one knows whether the soldier belonged to the union or the lost cause.

Grit and Grit.

The speaker at the real estate banquet the other evening who praised Chicago as a "city of grit" meant it kindly, thinks the Chicago Tribune, but it sounded like a reflection upon our atmosphere.

MAKES BEATEN BISCUITS.

Washington Girl of Good Family Derives a Good Income from Her Industry.

A young woman belonging to an old and aristocratic Maryland family now reduced in circumstances found it necessary some time ago to bestir herself in order to add to her limited income, says the Chicago Chronicle. She had learned the art of cookery in her early youth, and some years ago she announced that she was prepared to furnish genuine Maryland "beaten biscuit" to all who cared to buy. They are to be eaten with cheese in place of the water crackers which are such terrors to folks with tailor-made teeth, and everybody who has tried them is delighted. The young woman has already a thriving trade, and during the past fortnight has had an order from a caterer in Philadelphia, which has pleased her immensely. It happens that she has a cousin in a large school in that city, and the cousin determined to boom the trade for her. Accordingly, when she went shopping one day, she went into a fashionable shop and asked for a jar of Miss Carter's Maryland biscuits as unconcernedly as if Maryland biscuits were as common as chocolate creams. She expressed the greatest surprise when the shopkeeper said he'd never heard of them. Everybody in Washington used them, she told him. Within the week 20 different girls from that school called at the same shop to ask for Maryland biscuits. Of course, an article for which there was so great a demand must be kept, so Miss Carter—only that isn't her real name—was gladdened by a generous order from Philadelphia, and if the tactics of her friends in other cities are successful she will soon be able to go into the biscuit business in a wholesale way.

HE CAN WAKE THE JUDGE.

Philadelphia Lawyer Exercises a Skillful Trick of the Voice with Success.

There is said to be a lawyer in Philadelphia who possesses a trick of the voice to which a certain measure of his success in United States supreme court practice is due. The trick consists in waking the judge. Whether it is a common practice for the high dignitaries of the federal supreme bench to indulge in a nap in the course of a long and tedious argument, such happenings are not unknown, and it is well for an able logician of the bar to be prepared for it, says a New York paper.

The trick of waking a sleepy judge would seem to be something in the nature of slapping a law book under his nose or connecting his personality with the current of an electric battery. But the trick is explained as purely a matter of sound involved in the skillful control of the voice. It is said that a barrister practiced in the art and rhetoric of addressing the bench can gather all the waves of sound from his throat into a focus and deposit it in the orifice of the judge's ear with the general effect of a bomb. The trick, however it is accomplished, is said to have been worked repeatedly with success on the late Judge McKenna, whose habit of going to sleep on the bench was once a notorious subject of comment in the celebrated litigation over the Berliner telephone patents.

This queer trick of the voice, while it is said to be the peculiar property of one celebrated lawyer, is probably attempted often with varying success by others.

WHERE HE FOUND SECLUSION.

Senator Davis Was Accustomed to Seek Rest on Staten Island.

The late Senator Cushman K. Davis, of Minnesota, was one of the most industrious men, but frequently found that he was overtaxing his physical strength. On such occasions he went to New York and stayed at a small hotel on Staten Island. This was a habit known only to a very few of his personal friends. One of Senator Davis' friends on Staten Island was a man who for many years had been a pilot and who now lives at this hotel. The employees at the hotel were instructed to deny the presence of the senator should any inquiries be made there for him. A man who was very anxious to see Senator Davis in Washington learned a year ago that he had been seen going to Staten Island, and he called up every hotel there on the telephone. From none of them could he get any information, though Senator Davis was at that time a guest at one of them. His selection of this hotel was due to the fact that he had acquaintances there and because it was about the last place in New York where anyone would search for him. One of his friends stumbled on this retreat by chance last summer. He met the senator and his friend, the pilot, just returning from a trip to Coney Island.

Post Offices on Ocean Liners.

Most of the big liners that carry the mails now have floating post offices on board, where all letters and postal packets are dealt with while the vessel is plowing her way through the waves. The sorters have by no means an easy time on board, for they are often at work for 12 hours a day during the entire voyage. One sorter on the Kaiser Wilhelm stated the other day that during five months an average of 58,368 letters, 220 sacks of papers and 847 registered articles were handled by four men, or an individual average of 14,592 registered articles. In the same period the average post worked on the voyage of the American liners in 17 trips were 92,400 letters, 144 sacks of papers and 1,164 registered articles, or 46,200 letters, 72 sacks of papers and 592 registered articles per man.

WOMEN AS DRAMATISTS.

The Opportunity They Have to Influence for Good Through the Stage.

It has been asked more than once whether women can write plays. A while back this question provided an elaborate discussion, the upshot of which was that, whereas they might be able to do so, the fact remained that they had not so far distinguished themselves in the field of dramatic literature. It can no longer be said, however, that women are not to be seriously reckoned as rival competitors with men in this particular kind of work. How far they are successful at present or whether they are likely to do still greater things for the stage, it is not proposed to discuss just now.

But what does seem to need saying at this juncture, when there are signs that the woman dramatist is making herself prominent and is doing notable work, is that a splendid opportunity here presents itself for women to exercise the best possible influence on the drama of the day, says the Philadelphia Ledger. We hear it frequently asked: Does the drama make for good? And, thinking on the pessimistic problem plays that are produced, and on the theme which generally furnishes forth the play of the day, one hesitates to reply affirmatively.

One would be specially sorry to think that as they have the chance of elevating, or, at all events, of preserving the best tone of the drama, women did not avail themselves of their chances. Women are, without doubt, as capable as men of putting good stories into dramatic shape and supplying our stage with well-written and well-constructed plays; but it is to be hoped that they will not be tempted to forget that it is woman's metier to command respect, and her privilege to influence for good.

CONGRESS OF CUBA.

Elected in an Extremely Quiet Way Without Any Public Pressure.

The Cuban congress, which consists of 31 delegates and their substitutes is the result of a special general election held in the municipalities throughout the island on September 15; the second election in which the Cuban people had ever participated, the first being their election of municipal officers and municipal judges in June 15 of last year, says the National Magazine.

To an American, accustomed to the excitement and disorder that seem to be the natural concomitants of keen political competitions in the United States, these two elections were extremely quiet and even prosaic. There was no disorder of any kind. Only a few of the municipal police were at the voting stations, the presence of the American soldiers having wisely been deemed unnecessary. Whatever irregularity may have been carried on in the way of directing the voting was done in the clubs, of which there are one or more in every Cuban town, and the conduct of the people at the polls would have furnished a valuable object lesson to American voters. As the Cubans seldom get intoxicated there was noticeably absent the common occasion for police surveillance, and the rumors of trouble which were bruited about previous to the election were proved to be empty.

BIRDS HOODOO A CLOCK.

Swarm of Them Got Into the Works and Deranged the Mechanism.

The first mark of irregularity of the big clock in the tower of the Union depot was the discord of the hands on the four dials, facing north, south, east and west. These are run by long steel arms that extend from the mechanism in the center. The hands, each of which is about four feet long, did not keep the same time. The great, long hands acted as if there were some force restraining them. Occasionally they would spring into harmony, but would catch again a moment later, says the Denver Republican.

The head janitor, Mr. Smith, was sent to make an investigation. To reach the tower it is necessary to climb to the head of the stairs, then, through a small door, to a ladder and up that to another door, and so on until a fourth ladder has been climbed, when the machinery of the clock is reached.

Opening the last door and stepping into the apartment, the walls of which are the four faces of the clock, that are 12 feet across, he found that a swarm of birds had taken refuge in the clock tower. Some of them had crawled into the works of the clock, and, perching on the more delicate parts, had put them out of order.

Sports in Early Days.

Athletic sports and open-air amusements generally may be said to have been even more popular in 1800 than they are now. Thomas Jefferson boxed and fenced, and George Washington, who all but saw the nineteenth century open, could jump further and throw a stone a greater distance than any other man in Virginia. Fox hunting, gunning and all such sports were more commonly indulged in then than to-day. Every gentleman rode horseback, as a matter of course. His spurs, like those of the old-time knight, were the badge of his rank, and he did not drive in a carriage until he was too old to mount a horse.

England's Camels.

The British government is the owner of over 25,000 camels. Several thousand are used in India to carry stores and the equipment when the regiments are changing quarters by line of march.

THE GORGE OF DARIEL.

Impressions of the World-Famous Gateway Between Europe and Asia.

Eight miles from Vladikavkaz is the posting station at Balta; 11 miles farther is Lara, and five miles farther is the world-famous Gorge of Dariel, the "Caucasian Gates" of Pliny, the dark and awful defile between Europe and Asia, says a writer in Scribner's. Gradually, as we drive on, the hills rise and close in on us till at length they fall almost sheer to the edge of the rushing Terek and the narrow road, leaving only just room for these at the bottom of a rocky cleft, 3,000 feet deep. The air strikes chill as a vault; not a ray of sunshine enters; the driver stoops low and lashes his horses; instinctively we lapse into silence.

The geologists call this gorge a "fault," for it is not a pass over the mountain chain, but a rent clear across it. To the imaginative traveler, however, it is a fit scene for the most wonderful highway in history. Seventy years ago it was a perilous road, for avalanches, or the sudden outbursts of pent-up glacial streams, swept it from end to end, but the Russians have spent \$20,000,000 upon it and made it safe. In 1877 nearly all their troops and stores for carrying the war into Turkey and Asia came by this road, and it will be used again for the same purpose, although to a much less degree, for there is now direct railway connection from Moscow to Baku, at one end of the Transcaucasian railway, and therefore to Kars itself, via Tiflis, and equally from Kars to Batum at the other end, to which fortified port steamers would bring troops and supplies from Odessa and Novorossiisk in the Black sea.

The gorges of the Yangtze may be as impressive, but there is nothing in Europe which produces so profound an effect of dread upon the mind as this lonely, silent, gloomy, cold abyss of Dariel.

MAID CAUGHT A BURGLAR.

How a Discreet New York Servant Adroitly Brought the Police Patrol.

A rather curious method of burglar catching was resorted to by an ingenious maid servant recently in New York. While in pursuit of her household duties the maid noticed a man's foot inside the clothes closet. She did not scream, neither did she jump at the door, nor shut it with a bang; instead she took a broom and began to sweep that corner of the room near the closet. Her approach was gradual, and the sweeping was done so naturally that it would not have aroused the most suspicious burglar. At last the broom brushed the door gently, but hard enough to close it to the fraction of an inch. With five or six more gentle sweeps that closet door was shut and almost latched, which she at length succeeded in doing by gently pressing her arm against it.

As the telephone in her house was so near the closet that the burglar would be able to hear her if she called for assistance, she bethought herself of another plan. In the back yard some telephone linemen were at the time making repairs on a wire that runs to another house in the block. She went out and spoke to them. They promptly tapped a wire, attached a testing instrument and called up one of the downtown exchanges, which in turn called up police headquarters. From there the call was sent to the police station nearest the house and two policemen were sent around and got the man.

TOO HONEST FOR SOCIETY.

This Incident Shows That It Is Not Always Expedient to Speak the Plain Truth.

A demure little maid who has had much experience in society made the customary New Year's resolutions at the beginning of the new century but, unlike some of her sisters, announced the intention of using a good deal of flattery in her intercourse with her associates in the future, says a Chicago exchange.

"You may talk about honesty and sincerity all you wish," she said to a friend, "but neither of these qualities makes one popular. The popular girl is she who always has something nice to say whether she means it or not. Perhaps I've been a little too blunt in my frankness, but at all events the cooling dove couldn't be gentler than I will appear in 1901."

"Honesty is the best policy in business. In society I'm not sure it isn't the worst. As a preliminary and by way of practice let me tell you that you're looking remarkably well tonight. Your frock is a dream and your eyes are like stars. You're a delight to my eyes and the joy of my heart."

"Of course, I won't apply my compliments quite as thickly as that in the majority of cases, but I'm going to put in artistic touches whenever I think the subject will stand it." And then she dashed away, intent on her new role and quite unconscious that her last words contained any reflection upon the sagacity of her listener.

Insurance for Bathers.

Insurance for bathers is the newest enterprise in the insurance line. Penny-in-the-slot machines will be erected in popular bathing places. Before you enter the water you drop in your copper, and out pops a 24-hours' life insurance policy.

Stuttering Contagious.

Stuttering is considered contagious in Germany. There are over 80,000 stuttering children in the schools of that country, and the number is steadily increasing.

A JAPANESE MAGAZINE.

Occidental Ideas Accepted, But the Original Manner of Making Books Is Still Studied.

Of the many ideas that have been borrowed from western sources, that of preparing daily papers, magazines and other general literature for the public is already conspicuous in Japan. Where the two extremes of east and west meet, as in the case of the magazine the "Fuzoku Gaho," our attention is drawn toward the efforts that have been made to form an interesting addition to literature and art, says C. M. Salwey, in Asiatic Quarterly.

This magazine is a hybrid between ancient and recent work, of which many examples are now issued to the Japanese public. The system upon which it is "got up" shows that although western ideas have been accepted, in many respects the original manner of making books is still studied. The title page and frontispiece will be found at the end of the journal, and the pages numbered according to our idea, backwards. The text is given in usual oriental style, running half-way down the page from top to bottom, commencing from the right-hand side. All matter for reading, either explanations of pictures, news, advertisements, and so forth, is printed in Chinese characters, with the exception of the last page, which is in Japanese.

The illustrations show the influence of western ideas. The Fuzoku Gaho is profusely illustrated in various ways—double-page pictures confined to single subjects, or made up of many sketches, as we find them in weekly numbers of the Graphic, etc. This system is most frequently resorted to where several classes of the community are engaged in the same occupation, or when the old and new version of existing things are set off against each other by way of contrast. Single-page pictures in black and white or colors, and also small sketches interspersed in the text, are comprised within the covers of this monthly. The Fuzoku Gaho embraces a variety of subjects of historic worth, and present interest—ancient manners and customs that are rapidly disappearing, such as the secret forging of swords, the cutting of stone implements, the celebration of old-established festivals, down to the latest incidents in Corea and Formosa, thus insuring many readers by the wide range of subjects it embraces.

Occasionally advertisements of English goods appear in a cloud of Chinese ideographs, for instance, the figure of an English watch, printed on colored paper to attract attention; and Japanese articles of manufacture are recommended in the same European method. Owing to the number of Chinese ideographs, in which most printed matter is given, the editing of a journal or newspaper in Japan is no light task. Mr. Henry Norman tells us that the staff employed on a "daily" amounts to nearly 150 persons. As the Japanese equivalent for the Chinese characters employed requires to be kept continually in the ears of those who pick out the ideographs for the printer, the pressroom is one murmur of sing song from the lips of the boys whose business it is to hunt out the types from the tall cases that line the walls. The sounds must be uttered or they cannot be recognized among the many thousand types that need be overlooked for the compilation of a printed book. The lower classes in Japan cannot understand their journals unless they can read them aloud.

Too much credit must not be placed as yet upon daily intelligence. It news that will interest the public is not to be gained through the day's events, it must be forthcoming from the brains of the reporters. The absence of a general telegraphic system, or any other quick way of disseminating news from one town to another, renders reliable information difficult to collect at a given time. Besides, editors must not give too much attention to the public, and the large staff necessary is partly owing to indiscretions of this kind. There must always be one or more editors to spare. If injudicious liberality of information has enforced the temporary residence of an editor in a place of silence, safety and police supervision, another must be ready to take up the work.

FIGHT HAIL WITH ARTILLERY.

Methods Employed in Italy in Early Times Revived and Modified.

Cannonading to prevent hail seems to have been tried in Italy from very early times; in fact, it was forbidden by a royal decree by Empress Maria Theresa; but in recent years several Italians and Styrians have revived it and modified the methods. They are, however, working in the dark as much as were Powers and Dyrrenforth in their efforts to make rain by cannonading, says Youth's Companion.

Little is known about the method of formation of hail, and there is nothing to show that the smoke rings from the Italian vortex cannon ought to be able to dissipate hailstorms. The reports of the experiments in Italy show us that the converts to this new idea are deceiving themselves by looking only at a few apparent successes and neglecting the many exceptions. Hailstorms are proverbially local and erratic in their movements. The storm that moves away from the cannonading today may move right into it to-morrow. It will be well not to accept too readily the idea that man can so torture the clouds as to make rain or prevent hail. A leading meteorologist, after careful examination of the Styrian experiments, says that there has as yet been no satisfactory proof that the vortex cannon has had any effect on either the hail or the lightning, although the energy of its vortex tempts him to imagine that it might have had.

SCHOOL AND CHURCH.

A college of photography has been founded at Edingham, Ill.

In the private schools of China a teacher is paid one cent a day for each pupil.

In Nebraska there are 141 log school-houses, 517 built of sod, one of baled straw, and one of steel.

Rev. A. M. Harvott has been chosen president of the new theological seminary for women in Cincinnati.

Dr. W. W. Keen, of Philadelphia, president of the American Medical association, in his annual address, pointed to the fact that while millions of dollars have been given to hospitals comparatively little has been given to medical schools to train men to minister to the sick in these hospitals.

Nearly 80 years ago an act of parliament was passed for the prevention of Sunday desecration by London bakers, who were forbidden under a penalty to bake or sell on the Lord's day. This law has never been repealed, but it has not been invoked for several years. The operative bakers are now taking steps to have the old act of George IV. enforced.

Prof. D. A. Kent, of Jewell, Ia., has been appointed by the sultan of Turkey instructor in farming for the entire Turkish empire. Prof. Kent was recommended for the position a year ago, but on account of the usual oriental dilatoriness did not receive the appointment until a few days ago. He is now a member of the faculty of the Iowa state agricultural college.

The total receipts for Congregational home missions for the year were \$32,336; total expenditures, \$320,835. The receipts show an increase for the year of \$40,000. Twenty-six hundred congregations and missionary districts have been supplied with preachers, and 210 new Sunday schools organized. Seventy-four churches have been organized and 62 houses of worship completed.

THE OVEN BIRD'S NEST.

It Is Original and Ingenious in Construction and Very Cleverly Concealed.

If you are strolling in the woods in the leafy month of June, you will constantly hear a crescendo chant echoing through the woods. "Teacher, teacher, teacher," is the way in which Mr. Burroughs translates the notes into English, without the inspiration and pathos of the song. It is the oven bird, says the New York Tribune, who is one of the commonest dwellers in the woods at this season. He is also known as the golden-crowned thrush, but he is only a thrush by courtesy, as he does not belong to that lofty order of inspired songsters, but the humbler order of wood warblers. He is remarkable, however, among warblers, for he builds a most original nest, and one which is the most difficult to discover of all the quaint, ingenious nests which the little children of the air build to cover and protect that which is the most precious of all their possessions. Thousands who see this brownish, olive-green bird, its white breast and sides dashed with brown, fail to recognize it, but consider it a species of tree thrush, because of its spotted breast. It has a crest of cinnamon buff, with black lines; but this is more conspicuous in ornithologist descriptions than on a stately way, like a blackbird, and this alone, as well as its small size, would distinguish it, if the fact is noted. It is the only warbler that walks; all others hop, as birds generally do. The nest, which gives this bird its name, is shaped like an old-fashioned oven, a mound with the opening at one side. It is heaped up in the loose, dry leaves of spring, built of coarse grasses, rootlets and stalks, and daintily lined. It is a roomy nest, big enough for a bird almost as large as an English sparrow to move about in and sit on the eggs completely concealed. How carefully the little mother bird leaves her four or five spotted white eggs for the occasional siring she takes! Stealthily she darts out at the side and walks some distance before she flies up on a bough to show herself. It takes only the sharpest eyes to detect her. When she goes back she walks around till she sees you, darting out of sight on her next the moment you take your eyes off from her.

Honest Polly.

A matron was one day teaching a little colored girl on her plantation how to spell.

She used a pictorial primer, and over each word was the accompanying illustration. Polly glibly spelled "o-x, ox," and "b-o-x, box," and the teacher thought she was making "right rapid progress," perhaps even too rapid.

So she put her hand over the picture, and then asked:

"Polly, what does o-x spell?" "Ox," answered Polly, nimbly.

"How do you know it spells ox?" "Polly was as honest as the ox," "Seed his tail!" she responded.—Memphis Schmiter.

What Cheer Book.

Near Providence, R. I., is a rock in a cave that has an interesting tradition associated with it. The story runs that Roger Williams, the founder of the Rhode Island colony, on his banishment from Massachusetts, landed on this rock, where the Indians, hailing him with the words "What cheer, Netop? (friend)."—Detroit Free Press.

Sensitiveness of Fish.

Most fishes are very sensitive to external touch and some possess special organs for this sense. The seat of greatest sensitiveness is about the snout, but this sensitiveness in fishes does not appear to go the limit of causing it to feel pain from a wound.—Chicago Chronicle.